



greenfootnotes

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

www.GreenFoothills.org

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”

— John Muir

Visionaries in our Circle

When first organizing this edition of Green Footnotes we wanted to focus on environmental visions or visionaries. Having had so many in our past, and with the many great new visions being put forward for the future, we thought it timely to promote those positive thoughts. However, while planning the edition, our dearest friend and chief visionary, Mary Davey passed away. We thoughtfully considered whether or not to focus the edition solely on her — for it would be easy to fill pages with her accomplishments, stories, accolades, and good will.

But as John Muir stated, when you try to pick something out by itself, you find it attached to everything else. And that is how Mary Davey lived her life — attached or “hitched” to the universe. Her universe was large; she just couldn’t get enough of it, always welcoming more, and all, into her circle of wonderfulness. She would not have wanted us to focus on her alone, but instead she would have wanted to share the platform with those she always supported and praised — those she was “hitched to.” And indeed Mary was hitched to some of the best when it came to the environment—some in spirit and action, some in life. John Muir, Pete McCloskey, Ansel Adams, Lois Hogle, and Wallace Stegner are examples.

From the Executive Director

Cynthia D'Agosta

In the last few months, Mary began bringing files from her home to the CGF office; these files included the John Muir quote and several items from her friend, Wallace Stegner. The following excerpt from his “Wilderness Letter,” written in 1960 in favor of the 1964 Wilderness Act, was in her collection. She and Stegner were personal friends at the time he wrote the letter which so eloquently expresses a common thread held by these visionaries—and it explains why Mary was so “hitched” to their wagon. It was a class of environmental visionaries one hopes will continue and will be repeated in the future.

Green Foothills had over forty years of good fortune with Mary as a leader. Her love for the environment is reflected in everything we do. She effortlessly shared her passion for the land and guided us with her invincible stewardship ethic. She was truly a gifted mover and shaker, and she made sure to pass on that extraordinary gift to all she encountered. I think it’s accurate to say that Mary’s “Greenfeet” community has received from her, as we have from Stegner, the clarity and mission of our legacy for open spaces. And in spirit Mary, know that because of you, we will carry on the fight!

The Wilderness Letter

From “Coda: Wilderness Letter,” copyright by Wallace Stegner, 1960.

Reprinted from: www.wallacestegner.org/bio.html#wilderness

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining members of the wild species into zoos or to extinction; if we pollute the last clean air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silence, so that never again will Americans be free in their country from the noise, the exhausts, the stinks of human and automotive waste. And so that never again can we have the chance to see ourselves single, separate, vertical and individual in the world, part of the environment of trees and rocks and soil, brother to the animals, part of the natural world and competent to belong in it. Without any remaining wilderness we are

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COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

Committee for Green Foothills is a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Committee for Green Foothills mission is to protect the open space, farmlands, and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through advocacy, education and grassroots action.

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Environmental Visionaries

October 3, 2010, was a day of mixed emotions for the CGF Board of Directors. We had spent the previous few months planning and organizing our 7th annual "Nature's Inspiration" event to be held that day in Los Altos at the lovely home of Nan and Chuck Geschke. We had worked hard to put together what we felt would be a great celebration with our members who give us so much support. But we awoke on that gorgeous early fall morning to the sad news that our dear friend, Board colleague, environmental champion and all round Wonderful Person, Mary Davey, had passed away in the night from heart complications.

"Wonderful people! Greenfeet!" we would have heard her exclaim, arms outstretched. "Celebrate the environment! Embrace the day!"

With heavy hearts we arrived early and set about our planned preparations. Then, as the chairs were being arranged, the table cloths unfolded, and the name tags organized, something miraculous happened. We heard the words we would have heard Mary say at the end of every Board discussion, words which were her way of inspiring us to move forward on the projects we were undertaking. "Wonderful people! Greenfeet!" we would have heard her exclaim, arms outstretched. "Celebrate the environment! Embrace the day!" By the time the guests had begun to arrive, we knew that Mary would have encouraged us to move forward with the day, a day she had been so instrumental in making a success, and that is what we did. Thank you, Mary. You have made the world a more beautiful place.

The theme of this year's Nature's Inspiration event was Environmental Advocacy, and CGF was honored to recognize former Congressman and ultimate environmental advocate, Pete McCloskey. Over 200 CGF members, Honorary Hosts and NI Sponsors gathered to hear Pete's stories, all told with humor and wit, yet all with a serious point to make on his vision relating to environmental issues, the protection of open space and the quality of life for future generations. Our thanks go out to Pete for his gracious acceptance of the honor we bestowed on him.

On October 15th in Palo Alto, CGF recognized five local women who are dedicating their time to follow the planning of the High Speed Rail project from Gilroy to San Francisco. The evening commenced with a talk by author Anthony Flint, whose book "Wrestling with Moses" follows the story of Jane Jacobs, wife, mother, and concerned citizen, as she took on renowned New York City planner, Robert Moses, who had planned to extend 5th Avenue to the south. This huge freeway project would have bisected Washington Park and virtually destroyed the neighborhoods of Soho and Greenwich Village where Jane lived. In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, CGF presented Citizen Advocacy Awards to Elizabeth Alexis, Sara Armstrong, Nadia Naik, Yvonne Sheets-Saucedo and Rita Wespi, all of whom have raised their voice for open, transparent discussion and

community input into the planning process of High Speed Rail in our region.


CGF is proud to welcome Environmental Advocate **Julie Hutcheson** to the staff. Julie lives in Morgan Hill where she has been an active Community Advocate, most recently as the founder of Thrive! Morgan Hill, a volunteer group of residents working on issues that affect the quality of life in the City of Morgan Hill, and which supports plans that balance the community, the economy, and the environment. In the past she has provided organizational coordinator services to CGF and the South Valley Environmental Collaborative for their work on land-use issues affecting south Santa Clara County and the Pajaro Watershed. Julie will be working closely with CGF Advocates Brian Schmidt and Lennie Roberts to expand our advocacy efforts.

And finally, CGF is honored to welcome three talented individuals to our Board of Directors:

Jennifer Couperus lives in Mountain View. A native of the Peninsula, Jennifer is a second-generation activist in the preservation of local open space resources. She grew up a neighbor of Lois Crozier-Hogle and Wallace Stegner, two founders of the Committee for Green Foothills, before attending and graduating from the University of New Hampshire. She currently works in the hi-tech industry in Silicon Valley and is active in several environmental initiatives.

Alice Kaufman is an environmental lawyer living in Redwood City. She worked for several years with the Environmental Law Foundation in Oakland, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the environment, communities, and consumers against harmful toxics. Alice worked on a variety of issues related to environmental justice, toxics, and community right-to-know laws. Currently she is active in local land use and public school issues.

Mark Medeiros is the Farm Manager and Co-Founder of Veggelution, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to empower youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to create a sustainable food system in San Jose. The organic farm he started at Emma Prusch Park in East San Jose is surrounded on two sides by the massive overhead Hwy 880/280 interchange, and, just as Mark's interests center around the issues of urban fringe agriculture and open space preservation, the farm is both literally and figuratively at the juxtaposition of nature and urban development.

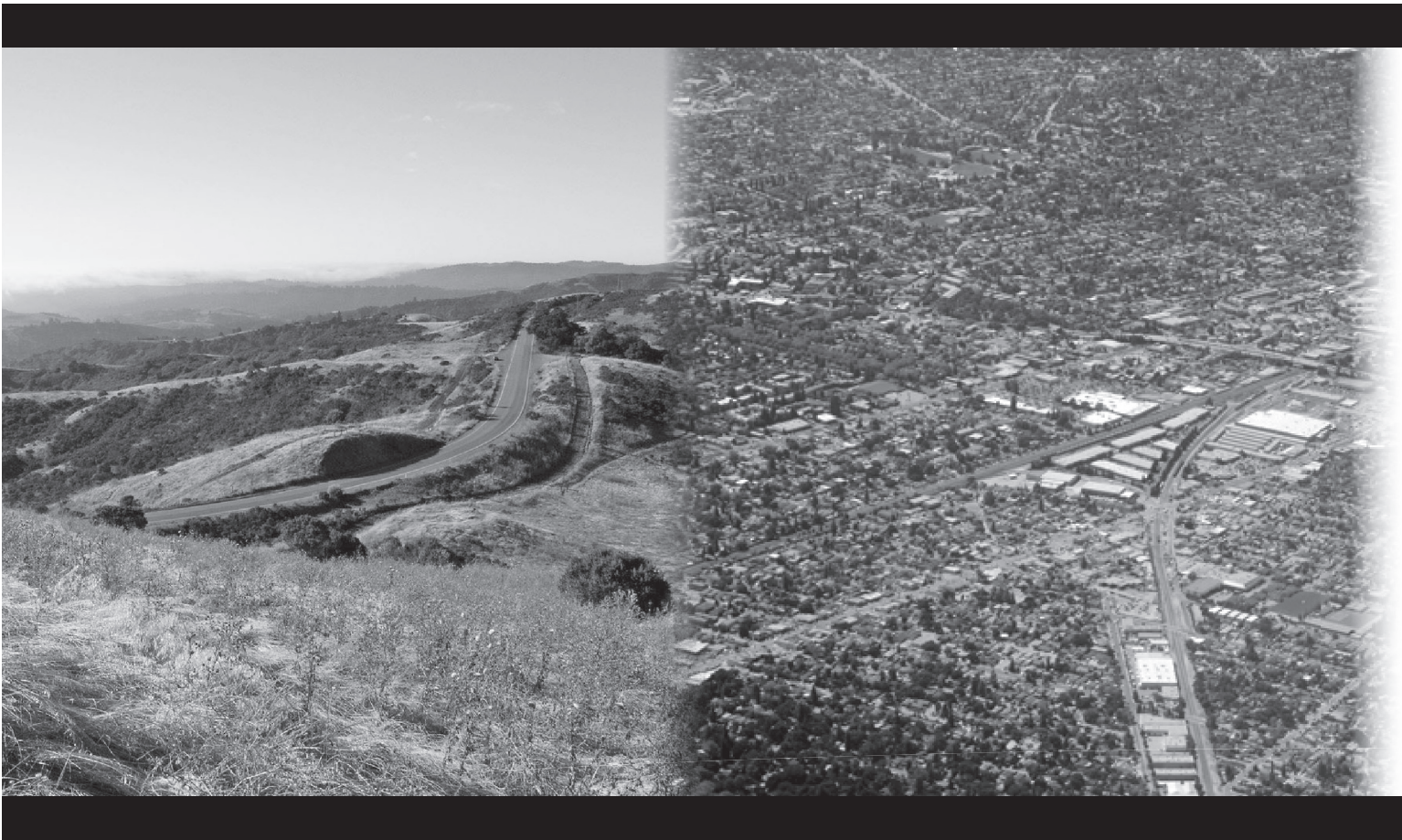
It is refreshing and encouraging to know that despite these times of political and economic turmoil there are those who continue to champion the environment, and who recognize the fundamental importance of the quality of the air that we breathe and the land which sustains us. Thank you all so very much. 

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committed wholly, without chance for even momentary reflection and rest, to a headlong drive into our technological termite-life, the Brave New World of a completely man-controlled environment. We need wilderness preserved—as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds—because it was the challenge against which our character as a people was formed. The reminder and the reassurance that it is still there is good for our spiritual health even if we never once in ten years set foot in it. It is good for us when we are young, because of the incomparable sanity it can bring briefly, as vacation and rest, into our insane lives. It is important to us when we are old simply because it is there—important, that is, simply as idea.



The theme of this year's Nature's Inspiration event was Environmental Advocacy, and CGF was honored to recognize former Congressman and ultimate environmental advocate, Pete McCloskey. Our thanks go out to Pete for his gracious acceptance of the honor we bestowed on him!



Changing Visions for San Mateo County

What will San Mateo County look like in 2060?

By Lennie Roberts

Grandiose Plans of the Past — What Might Have Been

Just 50 years ago, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted one of the earliest—and most ambitious—Master Plans in the State of California. Spurred by the building boom following World War II, County planners outlined a blueprint for the County's growth that would shock most people today.

The County's population was expected to nearly double in just thirty years—from 450,000 in 1960 to 800,000 in 1990. The Master Plan's assumptions of suburban sprawl pattern of development were dependent upon nearly everyone owning a car, and a massive network of new freeways and highways was laid out to accommodate the new residents.

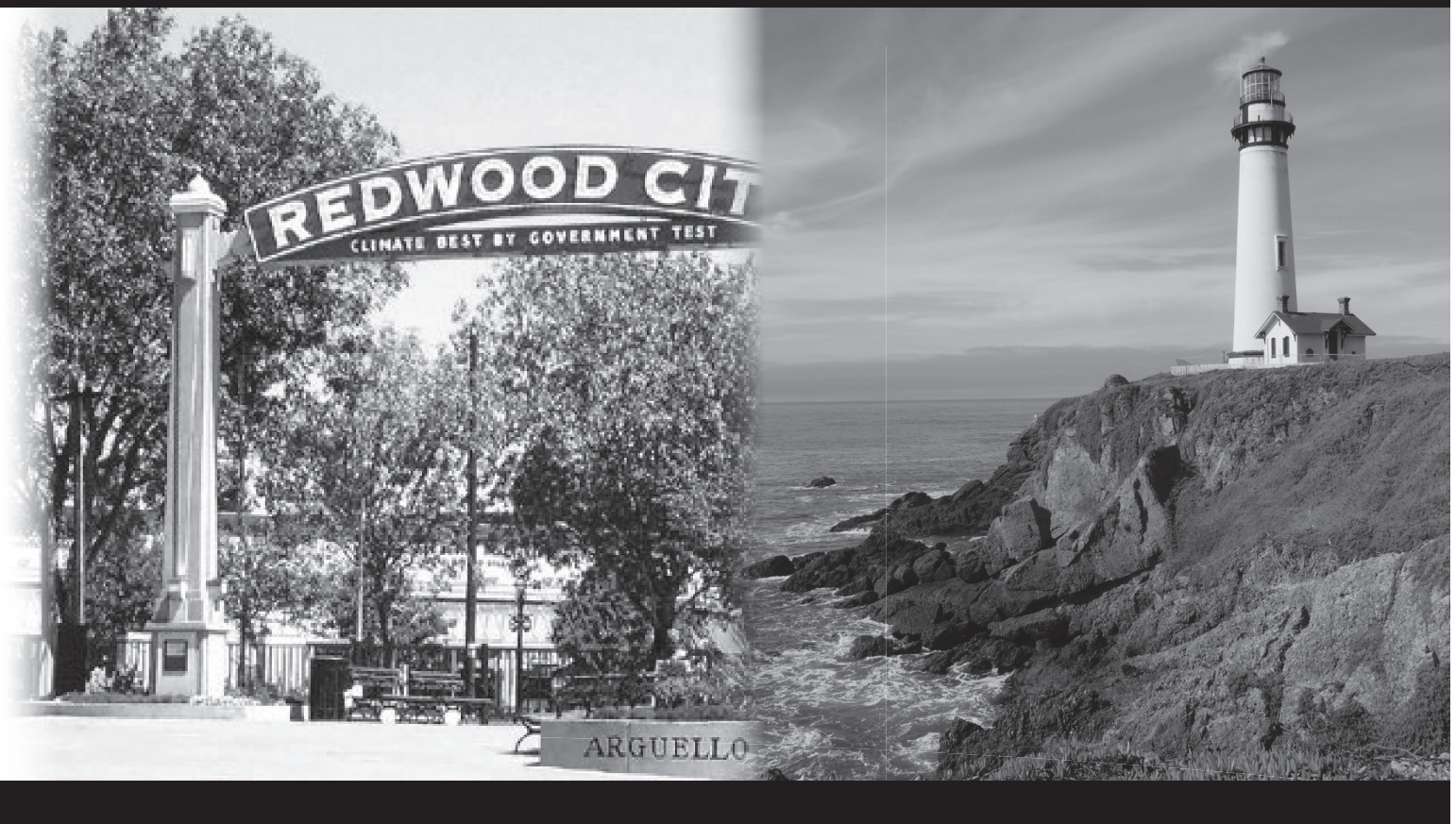
Freeways and Highways Everywhere — Oh My!

Several new freeways were proposed, including a Coast Freeway replacing scenic two-lane Cabrillo Highway from San Francisco to Santa Cruz County, an entirely new Bayfront Freeway located out in the Bay, east of San Francisco Airport, and a Willow Freeway from the Dumbarton Bridge through East Palo

Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside and over Skyline to San Gregorio. Other major new highways included a proposed Alpine Parkway connecting the Bayside to Pescadero, Skyline Parkway extending north from Highway 92 through the San Francisco Watershed, and a continuation of Edgewood Road straight up and over Skyline to Half Moon Bay. BART would extend through the county and branch out over the Bay to Hayward near Highway 92. Heliports every few miles completed the infrastructure for the new megalopolis sprawling into the Bay, over Skyline and down the coast to San Gregorio and beyond.

Several lakes were contemplated: a huge shallow freshwater lake replacing the tidal Bay south of the Dumbarton Bridge, two lakes near Pescadero that would provide water supply for new development and recreation on the South Coast, and a low-level Ladera Dam on Stanford's Webb Ranch that would provide flood control and recreation.

None of these grandiose public works came to pass, thanks to the hard work of many activists, including CGF. New environmental laws including the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and new agencies such as BCDC and the California Coastal Commission ushered in a new order where heedless development was held in check.



Old Sprawl-Plans Transformed

This December marks twenty years beyond the 1990 time frame of the Master Plan, and population figures still have not reached its overly ambitious goal. More importantly, for many reasons, growth has almost completely stopped sprawling out into rural areas and into the Bay. Instead, new development is being guided to downtown areas and along existing transportation corridors. A key vision for the smart growth of the future is expressed in the Grand Boulevard Initiative (see page 9). Gradually the suburban sprawl pattern of the postwar years is being transformed into a more European model for our cities, where people will have convenient transportation and needed services near where they live.

What does the Future Hold?


If we could polish up our trusty crystal ball, and put on our Master Plan thinking caps, what would be the environmentally sustainable vision for 2060?

I can see a future where San Mateo County's Bayside cities will continue to grow, but in a more vertical plane, replacing underutilized sites with more compact, diverse and vibrant land uses. Convenient and affordable transit will move people back and forth from homes to jobs to shopping, leisure and recreational activities. Trees, landscaped plazas, wide sidewalks, and attractive, high quality building designs incorporating historic features will help create a sense of community and distinct identities for each City. Green building techniques, and solar systems/energy efficiencies will be incorporated into all new buildings. Housing for all economic and social levels will be provided.

The Coastside's forests, farmlands, and open space/parklands will be permanently protected and maintained as working

landscapes and recreational areas, for all to enjoy, thanks to the continued vision and dedication of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Peninsula Open Space Trust. Fresh, locally grown food will be sold directly to consumers and featured in grocery stores, restaurants, and schools, through the collaborative efforts of the San Mateo County Food Systems Alliance, which has already begun this work. The coastside's 20 streams—from Pacifica to Año Nuevo—will be restored through an alliance of farmers, fishermen, environmentalists, and decision-makers. Off-stream agricultural ponds will be filled during winter high rains, to be used for irrigation of farm fields during the summer. As a result, summer stream flows, crucial to the survival of all aquatic species, will be maintained, and there will be substantially more reliable water for both farms and fisheries.

Climate change and rising sea levels will require massive investments in new levees to protect existing urbanized areas and other infrastructure along the Bay—including sewage treatment plants, Bayshore Freeway, and SFO. Decision-makers will see the folly of placing new development in low-lying areas subject to flooding and sea level rise, including the 1430-acre Cargill property in Redwood City. The restoration of former Salt Ponds in the South Bay will be completed, including the Cargill "Saltworks" site, providing habitat for wildlife, increased flood protection, improved water quality, and moderation of climate. In vulnerable coastal areas subject to dynamic wave action, decision-makers will choose "managed retreat" of development instead of armoring coastal bluffs and cliffs with rip-rap and other temporary, ineffective measures.

Will all this come to pass? We can all hope—and work—for this new vision! 

The First Glimpse of the Silicon Archipelago

By Brian Schmidt

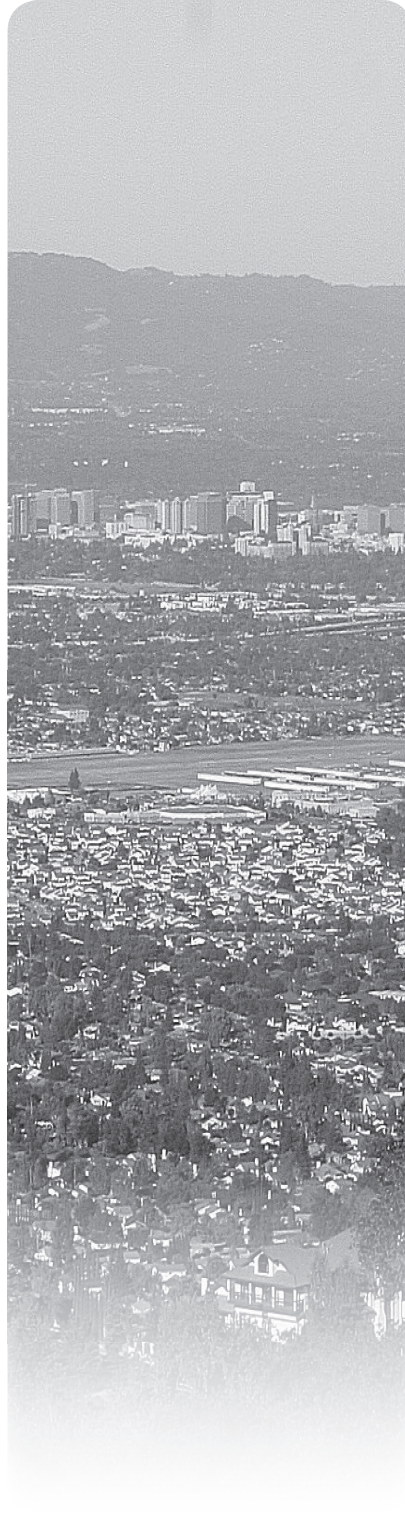
(An earlier version of this article was printed as an Op-Ed in the July 7, 2010 Mercury News.)

Goodbye, Silicon Valley. Hello, Silicon Archipelago.

The low-density, land-wasting suburban sprawl that characterized much of Silicon Valley's past doesn't have to continue in the South Bay. A better model can be an archipelago, a chain of urban islands emerging from an ocean of green space, all interrelated but separated; and this model can protect the future geography of our region as our high-tech economy extends southwards.

A Silicon Archipelago will be an island chain of vibrant, prosperous, and high-tech cities growing upward and not outward, while ringed by "seas" of working farmlands, natural open space areas, and wildlife. This Silicon Archipelago can combine the best of environmental protections and technological development from San Jose south to Morgan Hill and to Gilroy, and even to Hollister and beyond, without destroying the farmlands in between and wildlife nearby.

Just a few years ago, the idea of a Silicon Archipelago south of San Jose instead of endless sprawl would seem only a treehugger's fantasy. Times change, however, and the sprawling developments on the outskirts of San Jose have been stopped in their tracks. Debacles like the rural Almaden Valley Sports Complex and the Coyote Valley Specific Plan are two examples. The Coyote Valley Research Park approved in 2000 wheezes onward in paper form only, as its permits approach their last years of authorization. And two years ago, San Jose's City Council put South Almaden Valley and Mid-Coyote Valley off limits in the



upcoming General Plan.

On April 20th, the City Council followed up these initial steps with a little-noticed but potentially dramatic move toward a Silicon Archipelago. For the first time in 35 years, the Council hinted that the farmlands of North Coyote Valley and the ranchlands of east Evergreen may not be places for new development that are as appropriate as the many other parts of the city that desperately need redevelopment. After a suggestion by Committee for Green Foothills, the Council directed the General Plan revision process to consider "backloading" development of the undeveloped Coyote Valley and Evergreen areas. If enacted, this backloading would mean that only after redevelopment goals had been reached elsewhere (such as downtown) would the city consider proposals to siphon off development to the outskirts.

The wrong way forward into the future is to double the length of Silicon Valley sprawl from its current San Francisco-to-San Jose length, and extend it all the way through Gilroy. This threat, while real, should be replaced by an alternative vision where San Jose is both the capital of Silicon Valley and the launchpoint of the Silicon Archipelago.

San Jose and cities to its south need not follow the pattern of cancer, expanding ever outwards. San Jose can instead be a model of an environmental, high-tech city — one that grows greener and richer within geographic limits. This city, with leopard sharks swimming in the Bay at its northern limits, tule elk grazing on the hills within its southern limits, and steelhead trout navigating the river that runs through it, is a city that can marry technology and nature. With these initial steps, we're seeing the Silicon Archipelago at its birth. **CGF**

Good News for CGF's South County Work

By Julie Hutcheson, Environmental Advocate

The Committee's successful advocacy and educational efforts in south Santa Clara County recently received continued support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation with the renewal of a two-year grant and with a new grant from the Michael Lee Foundation. With previous Packard funding CGF has fought development efforts, created the South Valley Environmental Collaborative, bolstered the Collaborative's outreach, provided various levels of support to Save Open Space Gilroy, and organized an educational community forum in South County.

The funding will help to continue and expand CGF's efforts in Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy. One of the main areas of focus will be to foster community awareness of land use issues facing the area. To reach this goal, CGF will host three community dialogues in the coming year on land use, agricultural, and watershed issues. Efforts will be made to hold the events in their respective natural settings and include an interactive component.

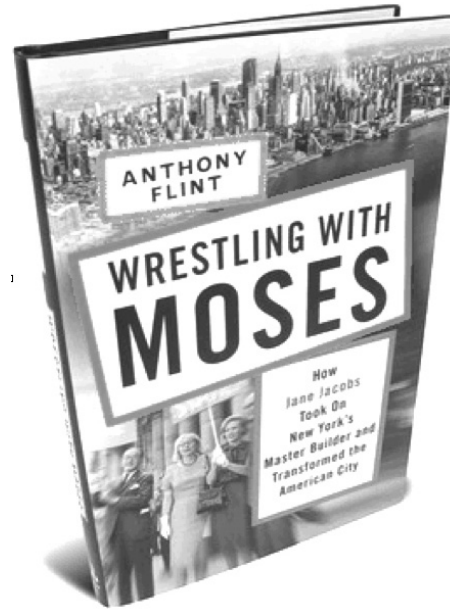
Following these events, CGF will conduct a regional visioning "charette" workshop. This workshop will bring together community members, urban planners, landscape architects, and other design professionals to articulate a vision for the region addressing ways to preserve open space lands, promote compact urban development, and preserve agricultural uses.

The purpose of the workshop will be to produce an integrated vision that will inspire more community members to engage around land use issues as well as lead to more governmental support for sound land use policies and plans. The defined vision will serve as an educational tool as well as aid in implementing a community vision.

Another goal of the funding is to convene a "cross county" summit on land use, open space preservation, and regional visioning. The summit will bring together stakeholders from Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties to discuss issues, priorities, outreach needs, and potential collaborative activities. As with the South Valley Environmental Collaborative, the idea is to create a synergistic network that will align efforts to support and sustain one another's work.

Also included within the grant funding is the continuing support of local environmental organizations and grassroots leadership, mentoring of students in the De Anza Community College Environmental Education Program, assisting with local Earth Day events, and encouraging local governments to develop a Climate Action Plan.

With this new funding in hand, CGF is poised to build on our successes and further strengthen our work in South County. All in all, it's good news for South County! 




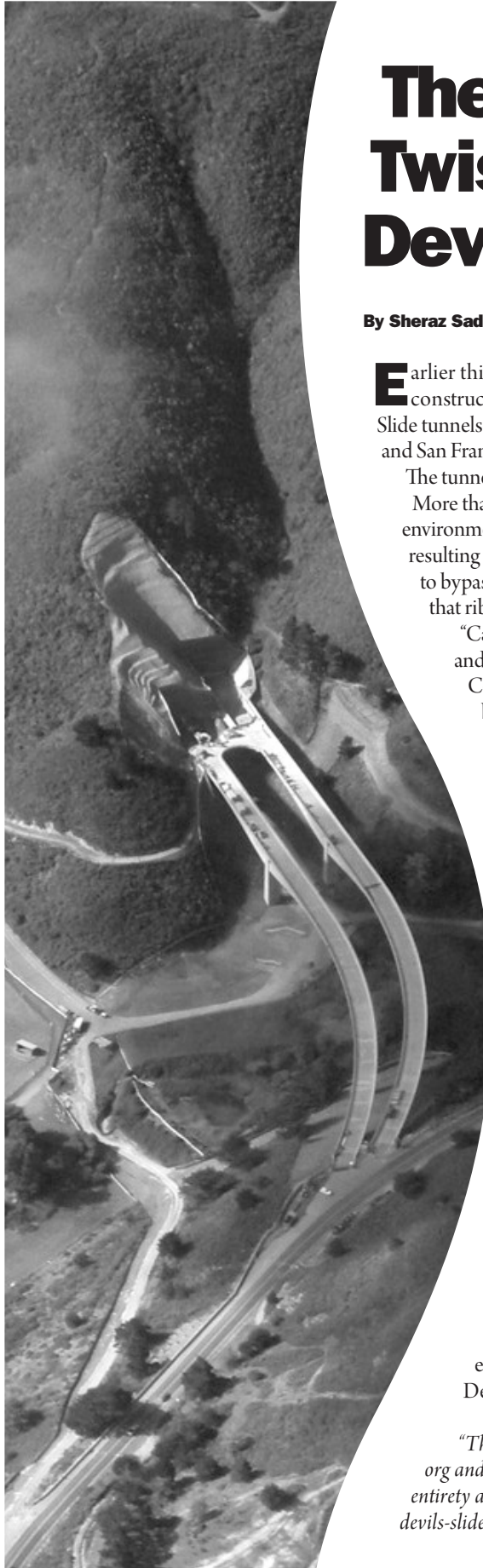
Featured Author: Anthony Flint & CGF Citizen Advocacy Awards

By Cynthia D'Agosta

On October 15th, Anthony Flint, a fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a land use policy think-tank in Cambridge, Massachusetts (www.lincolninst.edu), and author of *Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City* (Random House), spoke about the lessons this David-and-Goliath story has for today, on issues ranging from future growth to high-speed rail.

Civic engagement is one of the great legacies of Jane Jacobs, and this book is a tale of how Jacobs fought the legendary city planner Robert Moses in New York to save local neighborhoods. Her story is comparable to the citizens we recognized with "Citizen Advocacy Awards" (see President's message on page 2) at the talk. CGF feels strongly that the issues related to building the needed infrastructure to move our cities into a low-carbon metropolitan future are complex and have potential impact on our open spaces, neighborhoods, and quality of life. As advocates we are keenly aware that citizens' voices are a critical component in this discourse on urban planning, especially in today's discussions of providing High Speed Rail for our region and our state. We congratulate and salute the honorees of the evening as true citizen advocates.

If you missed the event, but don't want to miss this fantastic read, books are still available at Kepler's (some with the author's signature). **Remember to mention Committee for Green Foothills when purchasing any book at Kepler's and CGF will receive 10% of the price.** 



The Turns and the Twists of the Devil's Slide Tunnel

By Sheraz Sadiq

Earlier this month, as news cameras rolled and political leaders gave speeches, construction crews broke through a retaining wall at the north end of the Devil's Slide tunnels off Highway One, opening a new route to link the San Mateo County coast and San Francisco in an area plagued for decades by rock slides and road closures.

The tunnels were hailed as a feat of engineering ingenuity.

More than that, however, they cap a 40-year David vs. Goliath struggle that pitted environmentalists against the powerful California Department of Transportation, resulting in multiple lawsuits and a variety of proposals, including a six-lane freeway to bypass the treacherous stretch of Highway One between Pacifica and Montara that ribbons past Devil's Slide.

"Caltrans in the early '70s was a bunch of engineers that said, 'get out of my way and let me build my road,'" said Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate with the Committee for Green Foothills, an environmental legislative advocate group based in Palo Alto. "They did not interact with the community and they didn't want the community to have any say about their projects."

Caltrans crews broke ground in September 2007 on the two single-lane tunnels. When the north and south portals open to motorists in 2012, the event will mark the first highway tunnel built in California since the completion of the third bore of the Caldecott Tunnel in the Berkeley hills in 1964.

Caltrans crews used special tunnel-digging equipment from Austria and relied on European tunnel engineering expertise to carve through the rocks, soil and granite of San Pedro Mountain.

"The process we use is called the New Austrian Tunneling Method, where you basically excavate three to six feet of ground at a time," said Skip Sowko, the Caltrans project manager for the tunnels at Devil's Slide. "As you're moving along the tunnel, every time a piece is excavated, the mining engineer looks at the rock fractures and the soil types to evaluate what methods to use to support the excavated ground."

At a cost of \$342 million, the Devil's Slide tunnels, which will be named after late San Mateo Congressman Tom Lantos, will be the longest tunnel in the state, more than 4,300 feet long and 30 feet wide. They are connected to Highway One at the northern end with a pair of 1,000 foot-long bridges that span Shamrock Ranch, preserving fragile habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog in the valley below.

At the punch through event on Oct. 1, Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi praised members of his staff and acknowledged the efforts of environmentalists who refused to accept a freeway bypass alternative at Devil's Slide. **CGF**

"The Turns and the Twists of the Devil's Slide Tunnel" is courtesy of KQEDnews.org and QUEST. The article was written by Sheraz Sadiq and can be read in its entirety at <http://www.kqed.org/quest/blog/2010/10/11/the-turns-and-twists-of-devils-slide/>.

The Grand Boulevard Initiative—

A Transformative Vision for El Camino Real

By Lennie Roberts and Helen Chapman

El Camino Real (“The Royal Road”), was established by the Spanish missionaries as California’s first transportation artery, extending 600 miles from San Diego in the south to Sonoma County in the north. Today, this historic road that originally linked 21 missions by foot and horseback, has been overwhelmed by the automobile and all that goes with it—whether good, bad, or ugly.


The Royal Road deserves better! There is tremendous potential to transform El Camino’s undistinguished urban/suburban continuum into a vibrant and attractive place where residents can work, live, shop, and play, and where links can be created between communities that promote walking and transit.

The vision is of a boulevard that connects communities by a mix of land uses designed to attract people. Cities are encouraged to design for neighborhoods that include high quality building designs and diverse land uses, preserve historic buildings and places, and enhance our economic and cultural diversity, with the broad involvement of residents, workers, and local businesses. Roadway improvements will continue to meet the need to move people and commerce and preserve environmental resources. The El Camino of the future will incorporate our history and create a sense of community in each of the 19 cities beginning at the northern Daly City city limit, where it is named Mission Street, and ending near the Diridon Station in central San Jose, where it is named The Alameda.

The Grand Boulevard Initiative, (GBI), established in 2005, is a collaboration of 19 cities, local and regional agencies, environmentalists, labor, developers, and advocates for housing, transit, bicyclists, and economic development. Lennie Roberts, CGF’s San Mateo County Advocate, is a member of the GBI’s Task Force that endeavors to coordinate planning efforts, develop incentives, and secure funding to make this vision a reality.

The connection to the Grand Boulevard is especially significant to the San Jose residents and businesses surrounding The Alameda—historically known as “The Beautiful Way.” It is one of the primary entry points from Interstate 880 into San Jose and carries significant vehicle traffic, especially at commute times. The City of San Jose is currently in the midst of updating its General Plan with emphasis given to the Diridon area because of the pending plans for High Speed Rail and proposed Baseball Stadium. In the last five years, 2,300 units of housing were built around this area alone and hundreds more are in various planning stages. However, the current streetscape lacks the amenities needed to make the street livable and safe for pedestrians and bicyclists and could use a shot in the arm to attract vibrant businesses.

The community banded together with the local businesses and City officials to address the long-term needs of The Alameda and to seek solutions to concerns about pedestrian safety, access and increased traffic. A grant was sought after and awarded that allowed the community to work with a design consulting team to find consensus on the assets and problems of the streetscape. What has resulted after years of hard work is a vision for The Alameda that ties directly into priorities set by the Grand Boulevard Initiative Task Force. Another grant was recently awarded that will provide the dollars needed to start the first phase of the project.

The latest news of the passage of AB 1670 that will authorize the relinquishment of State Highway 82 and 130 to the City San Jose to maintain and improve will move the vision of the Alameda one step further into a reality for the community. 

Co-author Helen Chapman is a CGF Board member and President of the Shasta Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association which is directly adjacent to the Alameda Business District and has been directly involved in the visioning process.

The Royal Road deserves better! There is tremendous potential to transform El Camino’s undistinguished urban/suburban continuum into a vibrant and attractive place where residents can work, live, shop, and play, and where links can be created between communities that promote walking and transit.

A year of accomplishments

These are some of the more notable actions CGF took this year

In 2010 The Committee for Green Foothills continued its work to advocate, educate and use grassroots action to ensure that farmlands, natural resources and open spaces of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties are protected.

Your support allows us to continue adding to this list of "GreenFeats"! Thank you!

San Mateo County General

■ Working with neighboring homeowners, CGF helped craft a Conservation Easement protecting 90 acres of open space in perpetuity as part of the approval of the 12-unit subdivision of the Highlands Estates project. This concluded over 20 years of struggle by community members to protect this sensitive area.

■ We continued to advocate against the Big Wave Project, which is adjacent to the sensitive Pillar Point Marsh and the Half Moon Bay Airport. This proposed development of a 225,000 square foot office park and 50 units of housing for developmentally disabled adults would be inconsistent with the County's General Plan, Local Coastal Program, zoning, and the Airport Master Plan.

■ CGF was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP), a joint effort by the fire agencies of Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. The CWPP is intended to develop a community based wildfire protection program for the two counties. CGF added policies to include protection for special status species and other sensitive habitats in the plan.

■ Summer intern Annika Christensen completed a paper "The Present and Future Creek: Shaping Community Vision in the Lower San Francisquito Watershed" which summarizes CGF's work in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven during 2009-10.

San Mateo County Unincorporated Areas

■ Due to budget constraints, the Public Works Department has "retreated" from the previous practice of mowing along coastal roadsides and instead use herbicides in some locations. CGF has partnered with concerned residents in calling for the County to adopt a policy of "No Spray" on roadsides, with some limited exceptions where mowing is not possible.

■ CGF continues to call for revising the San Mateo County Grading Ordinance to address large-scale land clearing and grading on steep slopes to prepare land for new vineyards or other agricultural crops. Provisions are

needed to prevent erosion, landslides, or removal of riparian vegetation.

■ CGF continues to be involved in monitoring the ill-advised filling of San Francisco Bay wetlands for the Cargill/DMB proposed mini-city at the Redwood City "Saltworks" site.

San Mateo Coast

■ San Mateo County Parks and Recreation has proposed paving and widening two popular trails at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. CGF, other community members and groups asked that permeable surfacing be used and the width be reduced to comply with the park's Master Plan prescriptions for trails.

■ For almost ten years CGF has been involved in the Midcoast Local Coastal Plan Update, attending every meeting and speaking up for coastal protection. This past year, San Mateo County and the Coastal Commission have been working out differences between the County's Update and the Coastal Commission's modifications that were necessary to bring the plan into compliance with the California Coastal Act.

■ The Devil's Slide Tunnel construction crews broke through at the North Portal (Pacifica side) of the tunnel on October 1, 2010. The tunnel is expected to be completed in 2012.

Events

■ In April and May CGF conducted outreach at eight Earth Day events from Foster City to Morgan Hill, educating the public about the work we do and where their voices are needed.

■ May 1: Dedicated a bench to CGF supporter Joan Bruce in the Pearson-Arastradero Preserve. The event included a short hike with Enid Pearson, Preserve Advocate.

■ June 19: 60 people toured the Coyote Valley Wildlife Corridor Tour. We toured Coyote Creek Trail and wildlife undercrossings, Coyote Creek Corridor fish passage, and open space lands. Partners included Silicon Valley Land

Conservancy, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition, De Anza College, and Assembly member Ira Ruskin.

■ October 3: “Nature’s Inspiration: Celebrating Environmental Advocacy & Honoring Pete McCloskey.” Our largest event of the year, where over 200 people joined us for a lovely afternoon in at the Geschke’s elegant home.

■ October 15: Author Anthony Flint presented his work on Jane Jacobs and joined CGF in honoring the work of CARRD founders Elizabeth Alexis, Sara Armstrong, Nadia Naik, Rita Wespi and, from Gilroy, Yvonne Sheets-Saucedo by presenting them with a Citizens Advocacy Award.

■ November 20: CGF hosted a memorial gathering “Wonderful, Marvelous Celebration of Life” for Mary Davey, held at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton.

Strategic Goals

■ In September, CGF successfully met one of the largest goals of our 2007-2012 Strategic Plan by hiring Environmental Advocate, Julie Hutcheson.

■ CGF received an in-kind service award from Taproot to redesign and upgrade the website. Final product is expected to launch in early 2011.

■ With help from summer Intern Kelsey Wolfgram we began the process of documenting and archiving CGF’s long historical record.

Santa Clara County General

■ CGF supported a proposed plastic bag ban in County jurisdiction. We monitored and commented on the environmental impact report for a plastic bag ban that correctly concluded no significant adverse impacts would occur to the environment from banning plastic bags, which is currently undergoing review.

■ Following recommendations of CGF and County Staff, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors rejected the Planning Commission recommendation and supported strict standards on water conservation for a proposed landscaping ordinance.

■ Lehigh Hanson Quarry managers informed CGF in 2010 that they had acted on our suggestion and rewired night-time lighting to reduce the amount of lighting visible off-property.

■ An Op-Ed highlighting the concept and goals of the Silicon Archipelago (See Page 7) written by Brian Schmidt was published by the San Jose Mercury News on July 7, 2010.

■ CGF submitted comments to Santa Clara County analyzing the Draft Stanford Habitat Plan, demonstrating that Stanford had requested permission to damage more endangered species habitat than it needs, based on prior estimates Stanford itself had created.

■ Brian Schmidt continues to guest lecture at De Anza Community College classes to maintain connection with their wildlife monitoring and Coyote Valley protection.

San Jose and Coyote Valley

■ We carefully monitored the Coyote Valley Research Park permits as they neared their expiration date in 2011, warning San Jose that renewal attempts would be fought as vigorously as possible

■ CGF engaged the Mayor’s and Council Members’ staff in the discussion of San Jose’s EIR process which allows developers to pay for Environmental Impact Reports — a process not used in any other city in San Mateo or Santa Clara Counties — handing to developers the control over preliminary environmental impact review documents.

■ Monitored staff recommendations for San Jose’s General Plan, to ensure that Task Force-recommended strengthening of riparian-area protections remained in place, specifically to curtail the exception process that has harmed stream areas.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

■ CGF participated in the development of a number of additional recommendations for environmental enhancements and erosion control by the Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Environmental Advisory Committee, following changes that were approved last year. Committee recommendations are now being considered by the District Board.

■ Following a CGF recommendation, improved environmental funding seems likely, as District staff agreed that vegetation removal from flood channels should be charged to flood control instead of environmental enhancement.

■ District Board adopted Extended Producer Responsibility standards that support cleanup of pollution problems at the state and local level, following recommendations made by an advisory committee chaired by CGF.

Gilroy and Morgan Hill

■ CGF interviewed City Council candidates regarding agriculture, city growth and development, and the status of the Climate Action Plan.

■ We continue to take a lead in organizing the South Valley Environmental Collaborative as an information sharing forum on issues of concern.

■ Anthony Aerts, summer Intern from Stanford’s Bill Lane Center for the American West, completed a paper entitled “Agricultural Water Subsidies and Urban Edge Farms”. CGF

Honoring Mary Davey

Some thoughts on a passionate environmentalist

I am writing as a former long-time board member of the Committee for Green Foothills and now the current President of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. There is no question, my work with the Land Trust has been inspired and informed by what I learned from Mary and my other CGF board colleagues.

Mary Davey was an absolutely awe-inspiring “energy force”. Her vitality, her commitment to her community, her ability to motivate others, her sincere belief in the fundamental goodness of the human spirit, were all qualities that inspired others by their sheer magnitude and their effectiveness in moving ideas into action.

I personally learned a great deal from Mary: How to take the pulse of the community, how to organize an effective team, create a shared vision and to engage others in working to advance that vision. And, no one was better than Mary at expressing heartfelt appreciation. “Wonderful People” wasn’t an empty slogan. It was an acknowledgement of an intimate connection with the people she treasured and who treasured her. We are all in this together—a family, kindred spirits—collaborating for the greater good and having lots of fun doing so.

Mary, WONDERFUL PERSON, you will be missed by those who loved you, called you friend and colleague. You have left a legacy of environmental protection, advancement of social justice, and models of community engagement that will benefit many, many generations that follow. May you rest in peace as the baton is passed to others who will build upon the remarkable foundation you have laid.



Mary Davey was my friend and inspiration. When I arrived in Palo Alto in 2003 to take on the role of lead staff for the local Sierra Club I had no idea what an impressive, warm and welcoming community I was entering. One of the most special people I met was Mary Davey. During our time together Mary shared her knowledge, passion, and insights with me. Her leadership and her friendship helped me become part of the family of warriors for social and environmental justice. I am especially grateful for her open and kind approach to dealing with people. The world is a bit less bright from losing her. However, all the wonderful light she shown onto the world will last forever. I love you Mary.

Melissa Hippard

Mary Davey’s influence as a mentor to me extended from her kindness as much as from her wisdom. I can’t count the number of times she told me that I was “doing such a great job!” in a way that supported my efforts as much as any specific advice. From invaluable help at work to simply coming to my wedding, her presence inspired. Recently, she supported a political campaign of mine, writing fundraising letters to her friends just days before she passed away. Responses from those friends, with Mary’s notes attached, have continued to come to me.

Mary’s influence will continue to extend in this way – in the year 2047, I will reach the same age that Mary reached this year. I plan to do my best to extend the same kindness and advice I’ve learned from Mary all the way through 2047, and then a generation not even alive today will really be learning, and benefiting, and passing on to others, the lessons that Mary Davey inspired in us.

Brian Schmidt

As I read the news of Mary’s passing holding my eight day old baby (Oliver Finn Gentsch Bult) I hope that I can teach him to be as much a part of the community as Mary was. To care and contribute, and believe in the power of goodness of people.

Velma Gentsch

*Cindy Rubin
President*

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

About a year ago, I was invited to a meeting at the Committee offices. There were approximately 12 people at that meeting. However, aside from Brian Schmidt who had invited me, to this day I can only remember one other person there - Mary Davey. It is not a wonder. Her strong convictions and depth of knowledge along with her feistiness and passion for the environment left an indelible mark on me.

It was this initial image of Mary that I had in mind, when I attended my first CGF Board meeting in September of this year a week before I officially took on my duties as the new Environmental Advocate.

I arrived early and greeted a few Board members who had come for an earlier meeting. Mary was one of them. She didn't remember me, but as I came around the table and extended my hand to shake hers, she opened her arms wide and said, "Oh no, let me hug you, your part of the family now."

Unfortunately, my second encounter with Mary would be my last. But fortunately, I was given the chance to meet this warm-hearted lady and devoted and spirited environmentalist. And as I pass by the many accolades to her hanging in the hallway by my office door, I know she has left us some rather large "Green Feet" steps to follow.

Julie Hutcheson



Inspirer, motivator, catalyst, cajoler. Mary was a good woman to have on your side! We owe her a huge thanks for the legacy she left through pushing, pulling, and promoting. I'm especially grateful for her pioneering ways as a woman nonprofit exec and board leader. She was a great mentor to me. What a Wonder Woman!

Holly Van Houten

Mary Davey had a big vision for open space that she worked every day to make a reality. I repeatedly had the pleasure of watching her move a committee to take action and later that week sat with her to stuff hundred's of envelopes. The vision was never complete and no job was too small. I was lucky to have had the privilege to work with her.

Wendee Crofoot

Read at Mary's "Wonderful, Marvelous Celebration of Life" on November 20th:

For the Mistress of Ceremonies.

It's hard to imagine

A world without Mary:

Our cheer+leader, conscience,

And always so very...

So very exuberant,

Never protuberant -

Yet Mary Davey still is seen

Wherever foothills are still green!

Charles Drekmeir

Nature's Inspirations

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY
& HONORING PETE McCLOSKEY



Cynthia D'Agosta, Frankie Melvin,
Ravi Rajan, Jon Christensen



Denise Broderson,
Karin Kristenson, Brian Moss



Ira Ruskin and Pete McCloskey



Daisy and Kansen Chu, Leland Harris, Yoriko Kishimoto



Duffy Price, Matt Burrows,
Kathy Radford, John Radford

On October 3rd, 2010 we held our biggest party and member event of the year. Longtime CGF members, Chuck and Nan Geschke kindly hosted over 200 people on this lovely Sunday afternoon. Congressman McCloskey and Supervisor Rich Gordon delivered a few words for the crowd; artist Kit Davey (www.Found-object-art.com), prepared an assembled book as a gift for McCloskey; Just Us catering provided lovely hors d'oeuvres; with wine donated by Chaîne d'Or Vineyards, Guglielmo Winery, La Honda Winery, Ridge Vineyards, Thomas Fogarty Winery & Vineyards, and Woodside Vineyards. Hope you'll join us next year!



Lubab Sheet, Mary Roggero, Jonathan Davis,
Paul Davis, Margaret MacNiven



Mark Medeiros and Dan Chapman



Curt Riffle, Karen Scussel,
Cecily Harris, Steve Abbors



Pete McCloskey, Nadia Naik, Ullas Naik, David Hilbert,
Sara Armstrong, Elizabeth Alexis



The Committee is watching ...

San Jose — which approved a highly flawed project along Guadalupe Creek that invades the riparian buffer zone.

San Jose — considering increased protections for riparian areas and removal of developer control over its environmental review process.

Santa Clara County — where preliminary support for small scale commercial solar operations in limited parts of the County may work well, but only if careful precautions are in place.

Santa Clara Valley Water District — whose Board is considering whether to approve a number of recommendations to help the environment, suggested by its Environmental Advisory Committee.

Palo Alto City Council — whose City Council unfortunately walked away from its earlier interest in limiting the size of monster mansions in the foothills, but left the door open for revisiting the issue after new regulations have been given “time to work.”

Santa Clara County Planning Commission — which will hopefully learn from the Board of Supervisors’ rejection of Commission proposals to weaken environmental standards in a draft Landscaping ordinance, and will maintain high standards for the environment on future issues.

Santa Clara County Parks Department — whose acquisition plan has already started to skew proposed acquisitions to provide mitigations for impacts caused by County roads, instead of providing actual benefits to County residents.

Stanford — whose draft Habitat Conservation Plan generated many comments, including some from CGF for asking for permission to impact more endangered species habitat area than was justified.

San Francisquito, Matadero, Permanente, Stevens, Saratoga, San Tomas Aquinas, and Coyote Creeks, and also Guadalupe River — for being officially listed as “impaired” for trash which is clogging these streams.

San Jose and Santa Clara County — for considering plastic bag bans that could help address serious trash problems in our County, our creeks, and our Bay and ocean.

San Mateo County Planning Commission — which is considering two controversial projects — the Big Wave Office Park and Wellness Center adjacent to the Pillar Point Marsh north of Half Moon Bay, and the Clos de la Tech winery project above La Honda, which proposes a rezoning from Resource Management to Planned Unit Development to expand its vineyards by 37 acres on steep slopes, and build a winery to produce up to 13,000 cases per year.

San Mateo County Parks Department — whose proposed widening and paving of the popular Dardenelle Trail to full urban trail standards in the environmentally sensitive Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is being revised due to calls from CGF and many others to redesign the trail to better fit the natural setting.

Redwood City Planning Commission — which held the first “scoping” meeting on the Draft EIR for the Saltworks Project, and heard from an overwhelming number of people who asked them to just say no to this proposed new mini-city of 30,000 people on restorable San Francisco Bay wetlands.

San Mateo County Planning Department — which is looking into changes to the County Land Clearing and Grading Ordinance that could better control land clearing and grading on extremely steep slopes for vineyards.

San Mateo County Public Works — which is hearing from residents of the coast and Skyline areas who want the practice of spraying roadsides for weed control to be replaced by mowing.

The Committee Applauds ...

Sempervirens Fund — which recently acquired the 35 acre Lagomarsino property in the upper Tunitas Creek watershed, thus protecting 65 Old Growth redwoods and Douglas firs on the property, many of which were threatened by an ill advised logging plan opposed by CGF and other forest activists and agencies.

Audubon Society and Greenbelt Alliance — for joining together with Committee for Green Foothills on a position paper authored by CGF Intern Anthony Aerts, demonstrating that water subsidies for urban-edge agriculture aren’t necessarily destructive, unlike many other water subsidies.



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

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| EXHIBITS |

“Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa”

On exhibit January 20 – June 26, 2011 at the Los Altos History Museum

A new exhibit, “Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa,” celebrates the lives and achievements of Josephine and Frank Duveneck — social activists, Quakers, progressive educators, and ardent environmentalists.


Josephine and Frank Duveneck left their privileged East Coast lives and discovered Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, California, the home they shared with their family, friends, and others less fortunate than themselves. Today, Hidden Villa is a 1,600-acre wilderness preserve and working farm that is used for educational programs, summer camps, and philanthropic activities. It was the setting for the first interracial summer camp in the country and the first youth hostel on the West Coast. Both are still flourishing and will be featured in the exhibit.

The exhibit will focus on programs the Duvenecks drove that touched countless lives: interracial campers, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, and African-Americans who needed acceptance and housing after World War II. Josephine and Frank Duveneck were also instrumental in founding organizations still vital today such as Peninsula School in Menlo Park, Friends Outside, and the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club.

Children will enjoy a replica of Frank Duveneck’s blacksmith shop with a video of a working blacksmith, a farmer’s shed and outdoor exhibits, a special reading corner, and “discovery boxes” from Hidden Villa.

The exhibit will focus on programs the Duvenecks drove that touched countless lives: interracial campers, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans, Native Americans, and African-Americans who needed acceptance and housing after World War II.

Another multi-media highlight will be a new video, “Memories of Frank and Josephine,” featuring some of the people whose lives they touched as well as family members and friends.

“Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa” shows how two people can affect positive change by personally acting on their beliefs. 

“Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa” will be on view from January 20 - June 27, 2011 at the Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. The Museum is open Thursday - Sunday from noon to 4 PM. Admission is free. Visit <http://www.losaltoshistory.org> for more information and exhibit updates.